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MODERN TIMES

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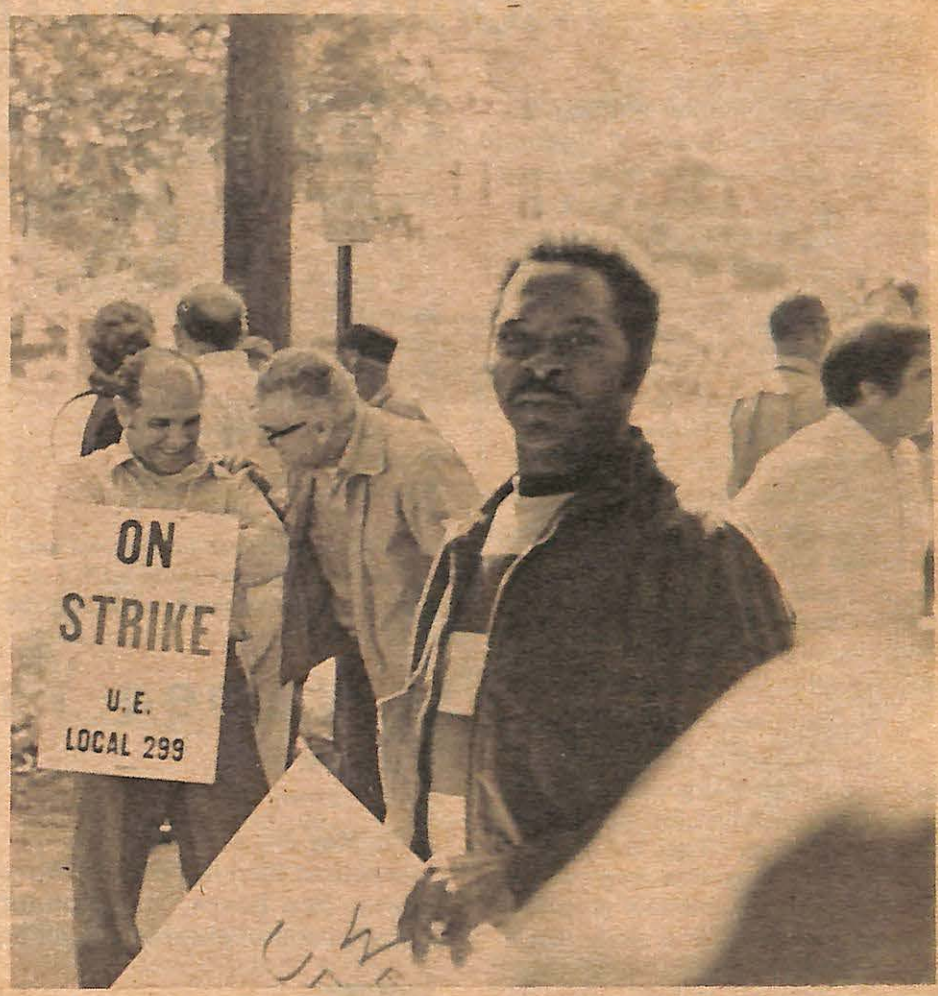
VOL. III No. 3 **New Haven** June 1-14, 1972.

Labor Rallies For U.E.



Area unionists mass to demonstrate support of Whitney Blake strikers, Local 299, United Electrical Workers. The strike was settled on May 26. See story, page 2. (M-T photo by Nick Heyer).

Teachers Lose In School Budget

Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

Next fall, when New Haven children return to school, there will be fewer teachers. In fact, there may not be school at all if there's a strike. The new city budget which included an almost 10 mil tax increase, did not even provide enough money to fill all the vacant teaching positions in the school system. **(See Editorial page 6.)**

At the same time, the New Haven Federation of Teachers (NHFT) has filed a suit claiming that the Board of Education has negotiated in bad faith for a new contract. The NHFT is asking for a court injunction against mediation of the contract. The Board had declared an impasse in negotiations on May 4 and asked for state mediation even though three quarters of the NHFT contract proposals have not yet been discussed.

According to NHFT president Ron O'Brien, "Repeated requests to return to the table were rudely dismissed. Instead, they are submitting their non-existent case to mediation in hopes of deceiving the public..."

Two weeks ago, Superintendent of Schools Gerald Barbaresi announced that there would be a cut of $400,000 in money for school personnel. According to the *Superintendent's Bulletin* of May 15: "This means, in effect, that a number of teaching positions as well as administrative posts will have to be eliminated from our staff. I assure you that where it can be done, this will be done by attrition...."

The loss of administrators is not a huge burden because New Haven presently has one administrator for every 8 teachers. In addition, five highly paid administrators will be on sabbatical leave next year at a cost to the city of over $100,000 and there wasn't a big panic about their loss.

Teachers First Victims

The loss of teaching positions is another matter. Presently there is a hiring freeze and the superintendent is trying to fill the holes by shifting teachers around. With new vocational education wings opening at Cross and Lee and with special programs like High School in the Community, the strain on teachers will increase.

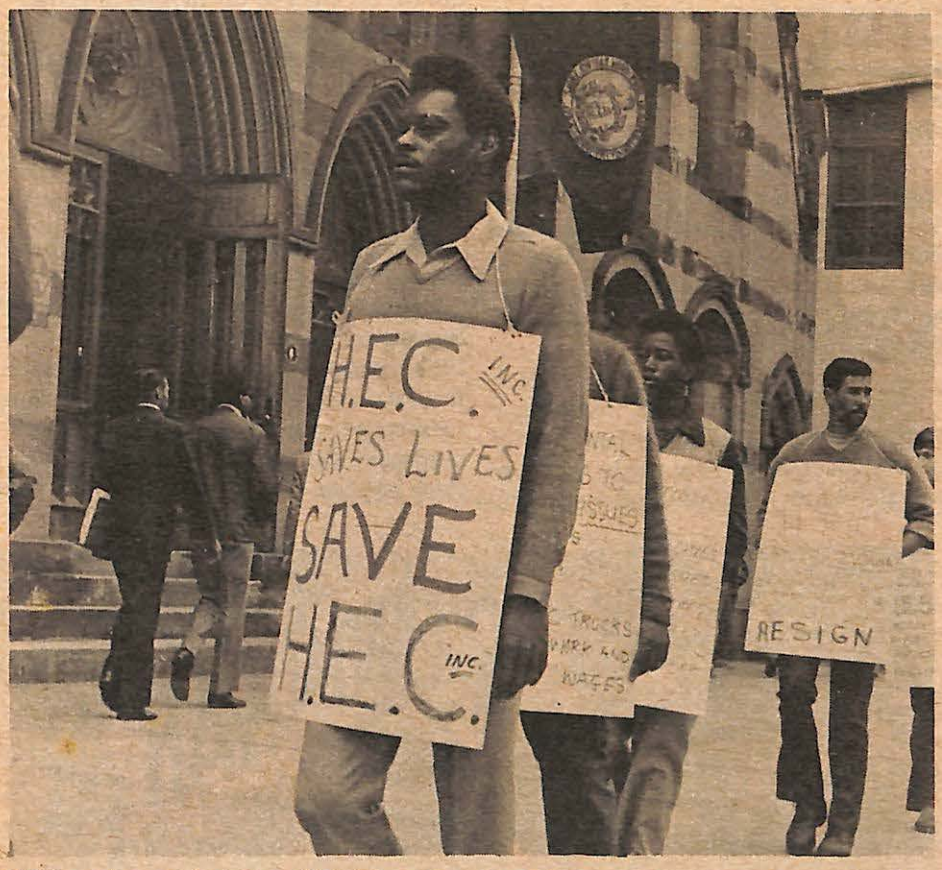
See EDUCATION, Page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE

...what business can't get by bargaining with labor it will try to get by using the power of the government to *force labor.*
p. 5

East Side Round-Up p.11

Community Control Issue In H.E.C. Dispute



HEC workers picket City Hall Thursday, May 25 demanding the right to work for decent wages, a board of directors, equal pay for equal work, union negotiations and the right to shape their own destiny. (M-T photo by Nick Heyer).

by Liz and Harry Henderson
Modern Times Staff

It's hard to cut through the garbage in the current dispute between the Model Cities Agency and the Hill Environmental Control (also known as the Hill Sanitation Department.) In the HEC crisis its twenty-three employees have resigned as of June 2. The heavily-publicized question of pay rates has obscured the issue of worker and community involvement in this vital environmental service.

For the past few weeks, negotiations have been going on between the City Administration, the Public Works Department, the Model Cities Agency and the Hill Neighborhood Corporation over the future of the HEC: The negotiations have been marked by a physical confrontation between the directors of HEC and Model Cities, the resignations of all the employees of HEC (since accepted by the City), and a call by the Hill Neighborhood Corporation for the resignation of J. Vernon Moore, Director of Model Cities.

Concern for the continued existence of the HEC has sparked a public meeting at Lee High School on May 24, several days of picketing by employees and community supporters of the Mayor's office and the Model Cities Agency, and a petition backing HEC which hundreds of Hill residents have signed.

Future Uncertain

The Hill Environmental Control was set up in September, 1969, to give work to unemployed Hill residents and to clean up the neighborhood. Since that time, HEC crews have become a familiar sight in the Hill where they collect garbage, clean up empty lots, remove snow and storm debris. They also pinch-hit in other neighborhoods and assist the Public Works Department.

The controversy over the future of HEC hangs on the question of who will continue to administer the program. Under Federal guidelines, all Model Cities programs must eventually be taken over either by an independent corporation or an existing City agency. As part of its Second Year Action Program, Model Cities has decided to merge HEC with the City Public Works Department.

From the perspective of HEC, this trans-

See HILL, Page 9

Anti-War Focus On Labor And Congress – P.4

2½ Month Strike Ends at Whitney-Blake

Members of the striking Local 299 United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (UEW) at the Whitney Blake Co. in Hamden voted Friday May 26 to accept a new two-year contract proposal.

The production workers who had been on strike since March 14 approved the pact by a two to one margin. About 200 of the 300 striking workers voted during the union meeting at the Eagle's Club, 19 George Street, Hamden.

The new pact proposed by management was presented to the union committee in a nine hours bargaining session May 24 at the New Haven Motor Inn. State mediators met with both union and management at that session.

Committee Rejects Offer

Harry Kaplan, a UE representative, said that the union negotiating committee had recommended that the contract be rejected. Even though the company had improved its pension proprosal, the committee felt the complete proposal was not acceptable. It is likely that union membership felt that corporation's strength presented too large a force to move. Whitney-Blake Co. is a subsidiary of the Continental Telephone Co. which is one of America's largest corporations.

Company spokesman, Michael J. Dorney said the contract gives a 5.5 percent salary increase for each of the two years with an overall increase of 4.5 percent in fringe benefits. He also pointed out the pension plan increase is one percent over the previous March 14 offer. Kaplan, however, said that though the percentages meet the Federal Pay Board's standards, in financial terms, it amounts to only 57.7 cents over the next two years.

Area unions had shown their support for the striking Whitney-Blake workers by staging a mass demonstration May 25 at the Hamden plant. Among those unions showing support were:

New Haven Federation of Teachers (AFT Local 993)
Olin Victory Lodge (IAM Local 609)
Yale Employees (YNFAC, Local 35)
Hospital Workers (L0cal 1l99)
Entoleter Workers
Westinghouse (UE)
Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union (HREIU)
Sargent's
Wire Machine Workers (IAM)

The support was both moral and financial with Sargent's and AFT Local 993 presenting checks to Local 299.

Union speaker at support rally for Whitney-Blake strikers on May 25. Strikers voted the next day to accept a new three year contract. (M-T photo by N. Heyer)

Women Vs. Ct. Files Contempt Suit

by Karen Wolff
Modern Times Staff

On May 26, Women vs. Connecticut filed in Federal District Court in New Haven, "a motion for contempt and to enforce injunction.' The new law which was just passed by the Connecticut Legislature was only slightly different from the old statute which had been ruled unconstitutional by the Federal District Law. The new law stated in the preamble that it was in the interest of the state to restrict abortions and it put even greater restrictions on the availability of abortions.

According to Women vs. Connecticut, Meskill should be cited for contempt since he called for a special session of the Connecticut legislature to push through this bill which was clearly contradicting the court ruling. Meskill, they claim, acted irresponsibly and illegally. Thus it has been legally requested that he show cause why he should not be cited for contempt.

How could this happen? According to Rhea Hirshman, spokeswoman for Women vs. Connecticut, there are many political implications to this case. Clearly, Meskill, with the blessing of the Catholic hierarchy, has imposed his religious views on the political process.

Once the old law had been declared unconstitutional, Meskill had hoped to operate under the old law until a new law was established. When this was ruled illegal by Thurgood Marshall, Justice of the Supreme Court, Meskill pushed for immediate action to establish another anti-abortion law.

Women vs. Conn. also wanted more permanent abortion legislation. But until this new law would be passed there would be no laws against abortion. Thus, abortion would be legal, by default.

Public Hearing

At the public hearings on the future of abortions in Connecticut, testimony was heard from all kinds of people and groups. The anti-abortion arguments mainly centered around the injustices vented against the unborn.

Those groups fighting for the right of the mother to chose to have an abortion or not, concentrated on the injustices committed against the already living. Here they referred to the lives of unwanted children or children brought up in very poor homes, as well as to the mothers themselves.

Women from all over Connecticut came to the hearings to testify that due to the repressive anti-abortion laws they themselves had been damaged, either physically or mentally.

Experts Favor Abortions

With few exceptions, the experts came out for the right of the mother to chose. Doctors and nurses from area hospitals testified in favor of the right to abortions. Members of such groups as Clergy Councilling Service, Greenwich NOW, Catholic Women for the Right to Choose, took strong stands for the right of women to have abortions.

New Haven was also forcefully represented. Many area churches and synagoges sent speakers against repressive legislation. Lawyers from Yale Law School and the Community went to testify for the right to choose. These speaker speakers gave even greater support to the impressive list of women who were testifying on their own behalf.

Community Notes

FAIR AT CHILDREN'S CENTER

The Children's Center in Hamden will hold its Annual Fair on Saturday, June 3. The Fair will feature entertainment for young and old, including rides for children and a variety of "white elephant" bargain booths for adults.

Funds raised during the Fair will help finance a summer program for boys and girls receiving foster home care and residential treatment at the Center.

The Fair will run from l0 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Children's Center, 1400 Whitney Avenue in Hamden. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, phone the Center, 248-2116.

AWARD TO REVEREND DAVIS

Reverend James H. Davis, pastor of the First Methodist Church, has received the annual award of the Human Relations Council.

Reverend Davis was praised "as a bridge or crossroad that unites a wide variety of people and groups and at the same time, as a catalyst that creates new movements and actions when needed" as he was presented the award by Joseph Dimow, President of the New Haven Chapter of the Human Relations Council.

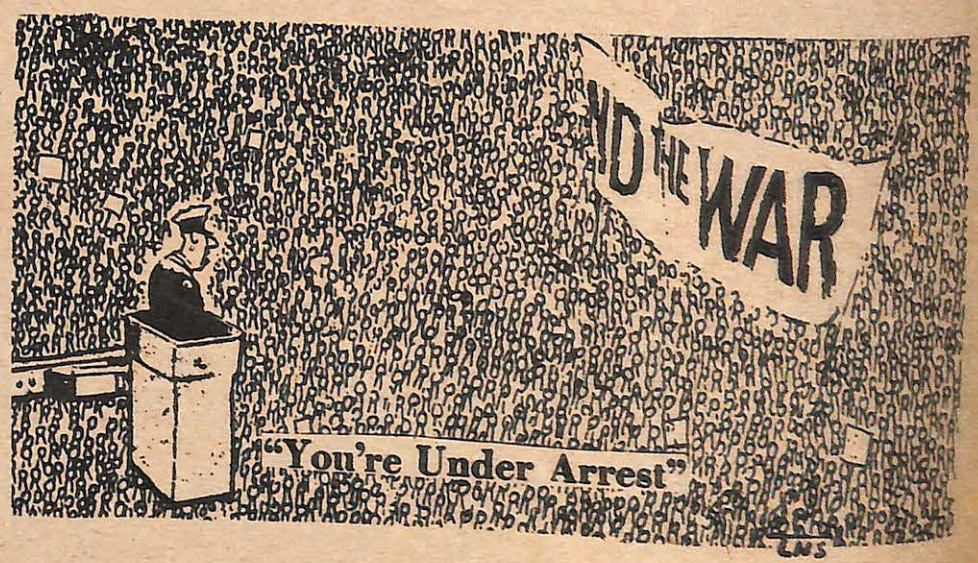
Readers of **Modern Times** may recall a centerfold devoted to the varied activities coordinated through the First Methodist Church building on College and Elm.

RETURN OF THE EXIT

The Exit Coffeehouse is not dead. It will live again this summer as the Exit Experimental Theatre with outdoor performances in Edgewood Park. Regular shows will be Friday and Saturday at 8:00, Sunday at 6:30, and children's performances Friday and Saturday at 6:30 and Sunday at 4:00.

There will be new shows each week, beginning June 2,3 and 4 with Albee's "Zoo Story," Williams "This Property is Condemned," and a new play by John Baringer, "After the Bombing of the Pentagon."

Admission to each show will be $1 per person and there will be season passes for $10.



YUAL Conference On Social Change

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The Young Unionists Action League (YUAL) is sponsoring a conference on "Tools for Social Change, 1972" to be held at the University of Connecticut on June 10. YUAL hopes to bring together activists in trade unions, liberal politics, and minority struggles to provide a statewide basis for cooperation and coordination of progressive activities.

The opening panel, which will attempt to define the "issues" will include Tony DiRienzo of the United Auto Workers, Toby Moffit of the Connecticut Citizens Action Group, Tom Keyes of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, Fred Jackson of the Caucus of Connecticut Democrats, and a representative of the AFL-CIO.

Other panels in the morning session will include: Collective Bargaining as a Tool for Social Change; Getting the Message Across; and Getting Involved. The afternoon session will have workshops on the panel topics. Films will be shown and there will be booths and tables covering the various sources of information and communication available in Connecticut.

A summary of the proceedings and a list of the people attending the conference will be sent to all participants. The Labor Education Center of the University of Connecticut is helping to organize the conference. Members of the faculty will serve on panels and help conduct the workshops.

It is hoped that participants will learn new research techniques, sources of information, and methods of communication for use in their work. The conference will also be an opportunity for people around the state involved in similar activities to lay the basis for statewide programs.

Details of the Conference:

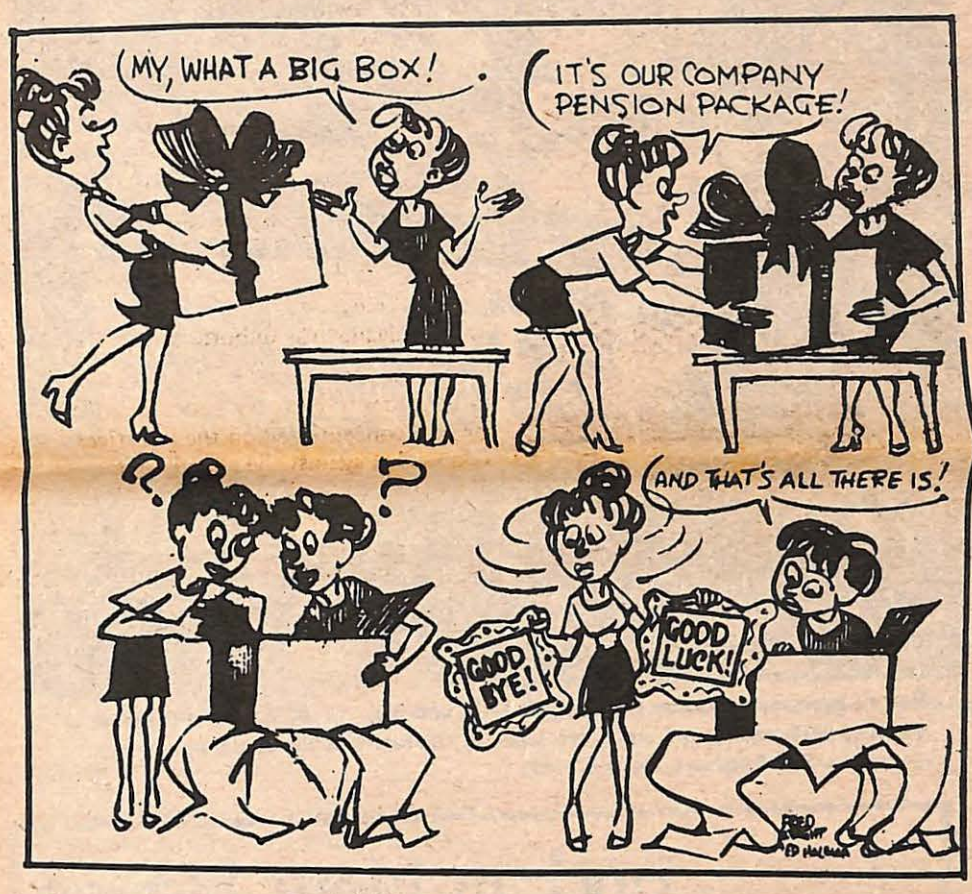
Date: June 10, 1972

Place: University of Connecticut, Storrs-Bishop Center

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: $6 registration fee which will cover a copy of the proceedings

For more information contact John Delvecchio, 288-3591



Minority Workers Want Jobs

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

After a year of hunting for jobs in the building trades, the Minority Unemployed Brothers Association (MUBA) is "tired of buck-passing and waiting and having closed meetings with no action," says chairman Charles Maultsby.

At a demonstration outside City Hall May 25, 100 members and supporters directed their complaints to administrative officials and contractors. They demanded that city compliance officers start doing their job, and close down work on construction sites if the companies are not hiring the required 20% minority workers. Special reference was made to the new courthouse being built on the corner of Church and Elm Sts.

MUBA has spent a lot of time in City Hall recently, trying to get information on who is responsible for enforcement of the minority hiring code. After two weeks, the group finally discovered who was "the guy with the Power" in this area -- State Commissioner Kozlowski, of the Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Kozlowski has refused to meet with representatives of MUBA with press present, and a closed meeting is forthcoming.

Legal Action Planned

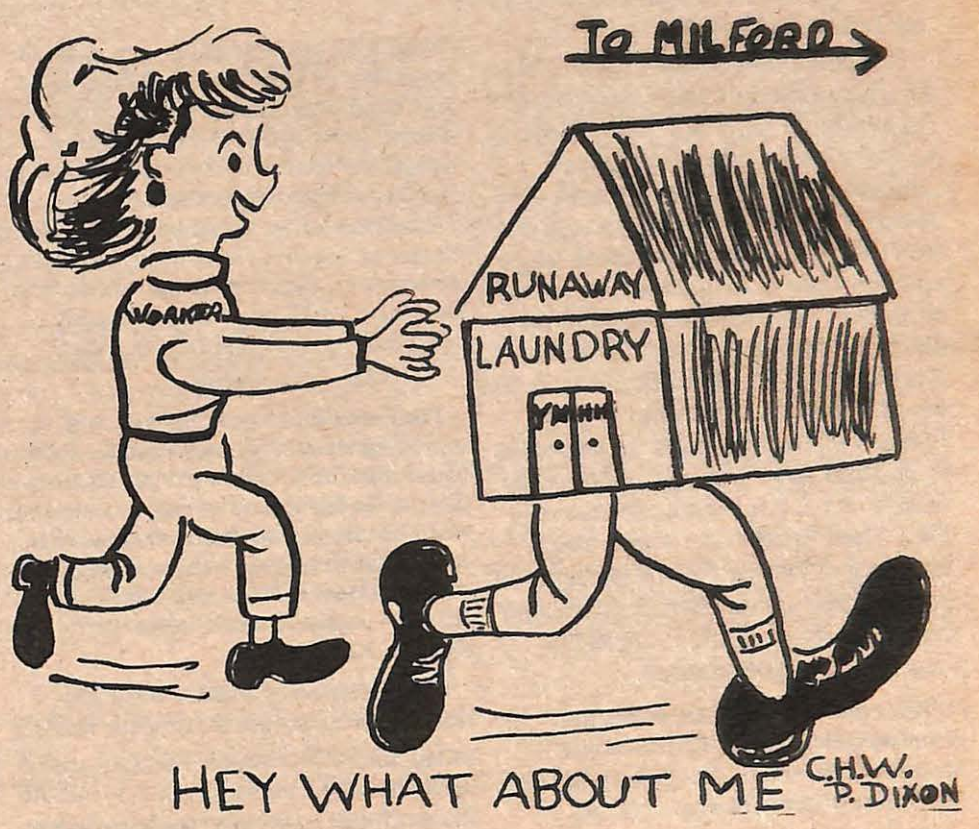
The group is receiving the help of Legal Aid, and plans to take action to close down construction sites where guidelines are not being met. "We're going to continue to fight until we get some jobs," emphasized co-chairman Henry Campbell. "If the compliance officers don't do it, we'll have to deal with the companies ourselves," he added.

Minority Unemployed Brothers Association was born last summer, when Maultsby and all his friends found themselves out of work. "You know how high the unemployment rate is," said Maultsby. Unemployment is highest in the black and brown communities.

"Four or five carloads of us went looking for jobs as a team," he explained, "from job site to job site and to union halls and the Joint Apprenticeship Program." The latter has cooperated with the efforts of MUBA by helping to choose which com-

See MUBA BLASTS, page 8.

Hospital Job Cuts Seen



Concerned Hospital Workers
from Hospital Workers' Newsletter

A few weeks ago on the 6 o'clock News, Channel 8 did a story on the new $4,300,000 cooperative laundry which just opened in Milford. The Newscaster named the hospitals participating, which are Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Raphael's, Milford Hospital, Park City and St. Vincent's Hospitals. He reported that the centrally located laundry will add to the efficiency of the hospitals involved. The reporter went on to say how the laundry will create 100 new jobs in Milford.

It's easy to see that the newscaster got his information from the hospitals. It's unfortunate that Yale-New Haven neglected to mention that out of 79 workers who worked in the YNHH laundry, only 22 are left. That's a cut of 57 jobs, not even counting the other 4 participating hospitals. Yale should have also mentioned how difficult it is to get a clean shirt from the laundry nowadays.

Of course, releasing all the facts about a centralized laundry is not good for Yale-New Haven Hospital's Public Relations. We consider this news release an act of deliberate deceit on the part of the 5 hospitals. More jobs were lost than created. As far as increased efficiency is concerned, it means getting the same job *done with less money. Less money means lost jobs and that hurts you and me and* adds to the long line at the Unemployment Office.

Labor Notes

STATISTICS TELL A STORY

Labor Notes has on a regular basis contained "statistics" on unemployment, income, taxes, and other so-called "economic indicators." Most of these statistics come from the government - state and federal - specifically the State and Federal Labor Departments. What this column has tried to do is express these statistics in more human terms. For example, the unemployment rate in the New Haven area was still 8.1% as of mid-April. This represents, 15,500 people who want to work but can't find a job. According to the State Labor Department, "this area continues to have a surplus of professionals, particularly engineers, programmers, systems analysts and teachers. Light clerical workers, assemblers and unskilled factory workers are also in abundance." That covers just about everybody!

SIRABELLA HONORED

On Saturday night, May 20, 1972, Vincent J. Sirabella, President of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, received the Eugene Debs Award at the annual dinner of the New Haven Socialist Party. Mr. Sirabella was given this award for "Progressive Community Leadership."

Over 70 area unionists and friends of Sirabella's attended the dinner at the Midtown Motor Inn. Among those speaking at the affair were Joseph Duffey, former candidate for the U.S. Senate and currently a professor at Yale University and Brendon Sexton, (former) Education Director for the United Auto Workers.

In accepting the award, Sirabella expressed the hope that the labor movement would revitalize itself. He suggested labor might (a) take union members from the shops to train them for union positions and (b) seek out committed young people who are not already within the labor movement and educate them to work with labor unions.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN LABOR HISTORY

Most American history books used in the schools systematically exclude the history of American labor - the struggles to organize unions, bloody strikes, the victories and defeats of labor unions, etc. "The Story of Labor in American History," a teacher's resource book, has been prepared by John Mation of the Minnesota Federation of Teachers. Copies of the 64-page resource book are available for $2 each from the Minnesota Federation of Teachers, 2147 University Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55514.

Local Anti-War Lobbyists Go to D.C.

by Gabrielle Fackre

Just after midnight Monday, May 15, five buses left the Green headed for Washington, D.C. The riders, half students from several local colleges and half other New Haven residents were so worried about the war that they felt it was time to go and tell their congressmen personally to stop it. On Saturday, eight very different leaders in New Haven – of Republicans, Democrats, labor, black people, women, churches and colleges -- had endorsed a statement to end the war "subject only to the release of all American prisoners." They then promised to lead the lobbying effort of New Haveners in getting their congressmen to support legislation to do this, such as the Church-Case amendment.

When they arrived there at 8 a.m., Representative Giaimo (3rd district) welcomed the crowd in a park outside of the House office buil dngs. He had changed his position and is very much for peace now. The group was divided up to visit those congressmen who were considered wavering on the issue. A large delegation went to Connecticut Senator Weicker's office to see where he stood. That afternoon he would be voting in the Senate on another amendment, the Byrd amendment, which, if carried, would turn the Case-Church proposal into exactly what the Nixon administration wants.

The Amendments

The Case-Church proposal was to have cut off funds for U.S. operations in Indo-China four months after enactment, conditional on the release of U.S. prisoners of war. The Byrd amendment changed that to say that funds may be appropriated for war in Indochina if the liberation forces refuse to accept Nixon's "cease fire" order on Nixon's terms.

Three hundred of Senator Weicker's New Haven constituents had made this trip to tell him to vote against the Byrd amendment and take a strong position to cut off the war funds -- the only legislative power Congress has left over the President. Later the New Haven group met with the Connecticut representatives together. At this meeting Weicker came in and announced that although the amendment was passed in the Senate he had voted against it. Connecticut's other Senator, Mr. Ribicoff, had made a special trip back from California to vote against the Byrd amendment. All of the Connecticut representatives that talked to the New Haven group including Steward McKinney, Ella T. Grasso and John Monagan, were now in agreement with our effort. They talked about their own frustrations in getting President Nixon to listen to them. The Republican representatives among them were taking a stand apart from the party line and they needed the support of their people. When asked what the congress would do now that the amendment had carried, Senator Weicker said that probably nothing would be brought up until the President got back from his Moscow trip. "Why does the Senate have to wait for that to end the killing?" we asked, "wasn't there anything we could do now?" Weicker just shrugged and blamed congressional leaders. "We're powerless to vote until the legislation is presented by the leaders. At this point, it was announced that some clergy and laymen concerned about Vietnam had gone over to the capitol rotunda to do the only non-violent thing besides voting that was left after talking was hopeless---praying and singing to end the war. A lot of frustrated lobbyers from the New Haven group joined them. It was very sad sitting in the big rotunda surrounded by America's heroes--Lincoln and Washington and Daniel Webster looking on--after a long trip and a whole day of trying to make democracy work. New Haven citizens were asking our legislators to perform their function as a check on the presidential powers that is written into the Constitution. The congressmen and women told the group that their hands were tied. Every Representative talked to said that the President was taking more and more power away from Congress as the war went on. The New Haven delegation came home aware that the power Nixon is robbing from Congress is the power of the American people.

Labor To Confer On Anti- War Efforts

by Bill Morico
Local 1199 Organizer

In a move to mobilize union members all over the country against the War in Vietnam, 44 labor leaders from 22 unions have issued a call for a nation-wide Labor Conference for Peace.

In a major break from the George Meany policies of supporting Nixon's escalation of the war, AFL-CIO and independent union leaders are sponsoring the conference, to be held June 23-24 at the Teamsters Joint Council Auditorium in St. Louis, Missouri.

The conference was initiated after a trip to North Vietnam by three of the leaders--Clifton Caldwell, vice-president, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers (AFL-CIO); Harold Gibbons, vice-president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters and David Livingston, secretary-treasurer, Distributive Workers of America.

The initial call for the conference includes, as a partial listing of sponsors, leaders of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, United Farm Workers, National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees, Shoe Workers, United Auto Workers, United Electrical Workers, Furniture Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, American Federation of Teachers, and the Wayne County AFL-CIO (Detroit, Michigan).

Unions and rank and file groups are urged to elect representatives. For further information and copies of the call, contact Bill Morico, Local 1199, Hospital Workers Union, 152 Temple Street, New Haven, or call 787-5046. The complete text of the call follows:

"In common with the overwhelming majority of Americans, the working people of our country are plain sick and tired of the cruel and senseless war in Vietnam.

"We are sick and tired of the killing and maiming of thousands of our finest youth, and the destruction of an innocent country and millions of its people.

"We are sick and tired of the same old lies--handed down from administration to administration--about how we are defending the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination, while we bomb their land into oblivion.

"We are sick and tired of an 'equality of sacrifice' that freezes our wages, while permitting prices to skyrocket and corporation profits to reach record levels.

"We are sick and tired of being caught in the wage-price treadmill, of running and running just to stand still--and even falling behind.

"We are sick and tired of watching our cities decay--of seeing our Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and poor White brothers and sisters condemned to an impoverished ghetto existence--while our government pours billions of dollars each year in the cesspool of history called the Vietnam war.

"We are sick and tired of this war that has divided our nation, set us apart from our youth, and poisoned the political atmosphere in our land with a deadly pollution.

"And we are determined that the voice of American labor, which has been raised in every struggle for justice and decency, shall not remain silent during this critical period.

"It is for these reasons--and because the coming weeks and months may well be decisive in determining our future—that we invite representatives of all labor organizations -- international unions, state and city central labor bodies, and local unions -- to join us in harnessing the conscience and will of American labor in a powerful organization—Labor For Peace—to bring an end to this war *now!*"

Recent demonstrations in Washington,D.C. and New York City indicate the growing participation of organized labor in the ranks of the peace movement. (Photo by Bill Andrews, Daily World)

...and in New Haven

Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Jr., chaplin at Yale, is leading several hundred New Haveners in prayer at the Vigil for Peace held May 19th on the green. Seated behind the chaplin, from left to right, are Bishop Joseph Donnelly, Mrs. Helen Pope, president of the Downtown Cooperative Ministry which organized the vigil, Rabbi Robert E. Goldburg of Temple Mishkan Israel (seated behind Mrs. Pope), Ann Diers, Mrs. Alphonse Coleman and Reverend Craig Bittle III, of Trinity Church.
(MT photo by Alan Kay)

Peace activites in New Haven began to accelerate in response to the escalation of the air war last month. They have continued to grow following the bombing of Haiphong Harbor.

From spontaneous sit-ins, demands for press coverage, and protest statements from union, school and community groups, the movement extended to the broad coalition including Mayor Guida which lobbied in Washington for fund cut-offs.

Local peace groups are discussing long-range programs to protest the Indochina War and the priorities of the current national budget. Two buses and a car caravan of New Haveners, organized by the New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Peace Action Coalition participated in the March on Washington, Sunday, May 21. Many trade unionists went on the march as was evident by the various union hats in the crowd.

Presently, plans are underway for small, community-oriented teach-ins on the war in Vietnam and conditions at home.

Welfare Reform Bill Vetoed By Meskill

by Renée Poirier
Modern Times Staff

Connecticut's welfare recipients were dealt a mean blow last week when Governor Meskill vetoed House Bill 5194. The bill would have provided for an adequate minimum level of support for families on welfare based on national non-farm poverty levels adjusted to a cost of living index.

Daily World

At first members of the Urban and Suburban Taxpayers for Welfare Reform, supporters of the bill, thought the bill had made it past Governor Meskill's desk without any trouble, until it was learned that the bill didn't reach the Governor until May 5, three days after it left the state clerk's office. This gave Meskill until May 20 to decide on the bill, rather than the expected May 17th. Those three days proved fatal.

There is still a chance for the bill to be introduced again in the legislative override sessions. These sessions begin on June 12 and any bill that has been unanimously passed by the House and Senate, but vetoed by the Governor, may be reintroduced.

Your Help Needed

Irmgard Wessel, a social worker and member of the reform group, strongly urged that people get in touch with their representatives and press for the reintroduction of House Bill 5194. Particularly, people should contact State Senator Anthony Ciarlone (New Haven, 10th SD) who is chairman of the Committee on Welfare and Correction and a strong supporter of the bill. It would also be helpful for people to inform Welfare Commissioner White of their feelings on this bill.

Wessel points out that it is the USTWR's belief that the Legislature must set the fiscal policy and not the head of the Welfare Department, as Governor Meskill seems to feel. Therefore, it is important for people to push for the bill's re-entry into the legislative override sessions.

Money Talks

State Workers Bill Vetoed

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

After years of frustration, state employees were close to gaining collective bargaining rights. But Governor Meskill vetoed the comprehensive collective bargaining bill passed by the General Assembly at the end of the last session.

The bill, patterned after the one governing municipal employees, passed the State Senate 33-0 and went through the State House with little opposition. This represented a major victory for state employee unions such as AFSCME and CUWE who have been pressing for years for collective bargaining rights. AFSCME is the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and CUWE is the Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees.

The law would have provided for exclusive union representation for collective bargaining. A union could gain recognition by a majority vote of the employees in a bargaining unit. As in the case of municipal employees, strikes were outlawed.

CSEA Stand Cold

The Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA) which has a membership of 25,000 (out of 39,000) state employees, opposed the bill. The CSEA prefers a joint bargaining committee and a dues checkoff system of voting.

The CSEA includes supervisors and the dues checkoff voting system would enable them to determine how workers vote.

It has been a long hard struggle in Connecticut to gain collective bargaining rights for government workers. Most other workers won the right to bargain with the passage of the National Labor Relations Act in 1937. Municipal employees in Connecticut won the right to bargain in 1966 when the Democrats first won control of the State Assembly. But because strikes by both state and municipal employees were against the law, there was very little leverage unions could use to force collective bargaining.

Education Budget Sliced

Continued from page 1.

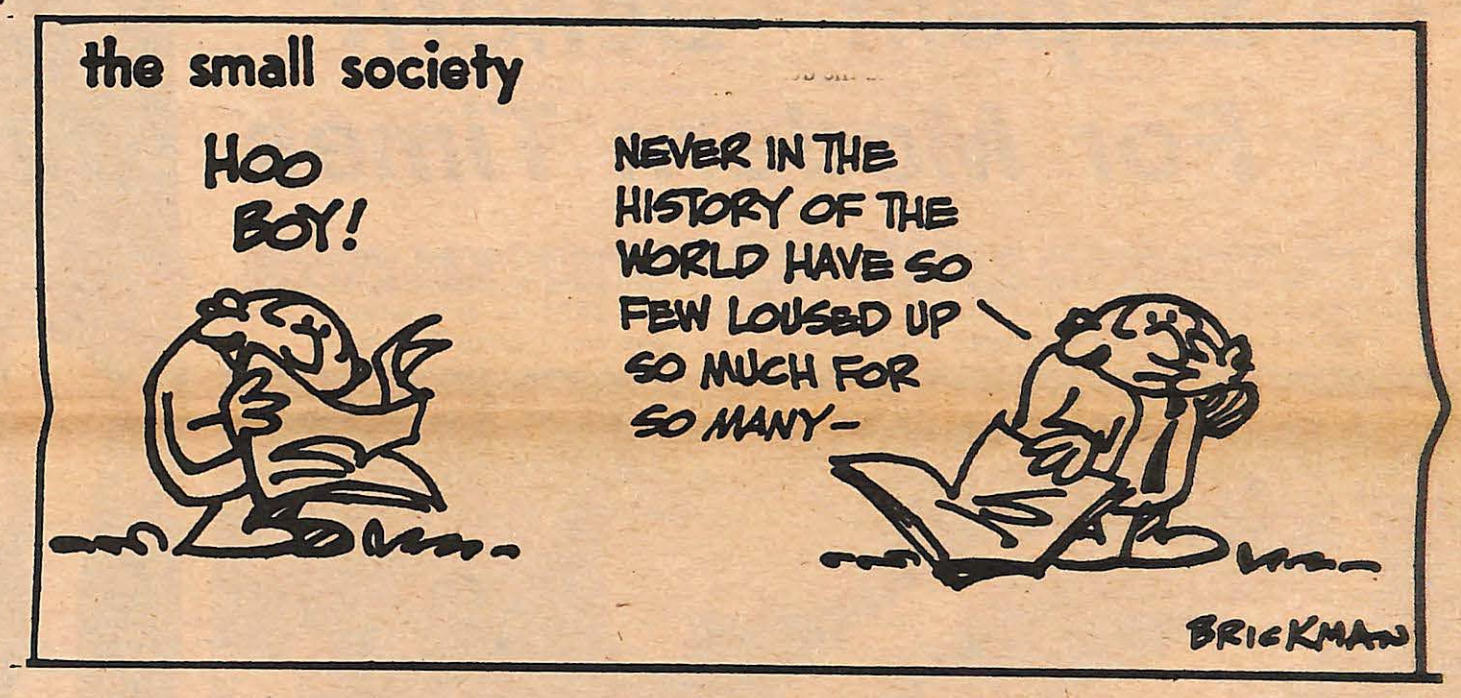
Reduction in teaching staff as a solution to budgetary problems is not unique to New Haven. Cities all over the country are trying to solve their problem the same way--from San Francisco to New York. According to David Seldon, president of the American Federation of Teachers, **"As usual, whenever there is a money problem, teachers are the first victims."**

This trend has certain limitations. The present contract with the NHFT requires that the Board hire one teacher for every 30 students. The Board would like to eliminate this provision from the contract. The Board's stringent budgetary measures explain some of its refusal to consider the NHFT's proposals for a new contract.

The union has stated: "We don't want to strike. On the other hand, we intend to pursue negotiations vigorously and to explore every legal means at our disposal to achieve a better educational program (the Board has completely ignored our proposals in this area), improved working conditions for teachers, and salary and benefit adjustments consistent with the increased cost of living and with those provided for other teachers."

The Board, on the other hand, has taken the opposite stance. They have declared an impasse in negotiations even though the contract doesn't expire until September 1--leaving at least two more months of possible discussions with the union. It has also been rumored that some members of the Board would like a teacher strike in the fall as a means of saving some money--striking teachers aren't paid.

New Law Forces Arbitration



by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The bag of tricks used by employers to prevent or defeat strikes includes one little item that is being used more and more these days. Instead of shouting about how the strike is unfair to management or about how evil and greedy the union is, the employers put on a different face. "We are above all concerned with the welfare of the public, who should not be inconvenienced by these unnecessary labor disputes."

By putting out newspaper ads and television announcements about their concern for the public, the employers intend to drum up public feeling and help from eager politicians in pressuring the strike to end - with a loss for the union.

One of the most eager politicians is President Nixon, who has rushed to the employers' assistance with a new law he proposed to Congress. It has the clever public relations name of "The Crippling Strikes Prevention Act." Its target is the millions of workers in the trucking, railroad, airline, maritime and longshore industries.

Two Part Action

The Act would essentially do two things. First, in situations where management and labor cannot agree to terms, a strike would not be allowed. Instead, an arbitration panel, appointed by the President or the Secretary of Labor, would choose between the final offers of management and the union.

Whichever final offer the arbitration panel chose would then be the legal contract between the company and its employees. This is "Compulsory Arbitration." The AFL-CIO strongly denounces it as an act which would force an employee to work for the profit of his employer on terms dictated by the government."

Of course, the business and political backers of this Act speak only about protecting the innocent public from the inconvenience and hardship that results from strikes in our transportation industries.

Business leaders seem to have decided that their efforts in recent years to "protect the public" have paid off. They figure that they can count on favorable settlements from government arbitration panels now that they have created a mood of blaming the union for inconveniencing the public.

Government Takes Over

But there is more going on here than just another trick of employers versus workers. This time business is attacking the whole idea of collective bargaining, the right that so many working people and unions fought so long to win. This Act means that little or no real bargaining between management and union will take place. Both sides will just make their "final offers." The Government makes the decision, not the bargaining between capital and labor.

And the government decision is final, compulsory, not voluntary. The willingness of business to go along with this shows their confidence that they can control what decisions the government makes. It also suggests that big business will now work still harder to keep that control.

The right to bargain collectively and the right to strike are basic, absolutely essential freedoms if working people are to be able to win decent livelihoods against the ceaseless demands of business for higher profits. The strike is labor's weapon of last resort, labor's way of winning its demands by denying management the profit that only the workers produce.

Along with the wage-price freeze, this compulsory arbitration Act is another sharp attack by business and government against labor. It teaches us two lessons. First, big business is trying to shift to its employees the economic burden of these bad times. Second, what business can't get by bargaining with labor it will try to get by using the power of the government to force labor.

The moral of the story: to get ahead, or even to just keep what it has won, labor must build its political power no less than its economic power at the workplace.

Editorial

It was no surprise when the new city budget was announced that taxes were going up. It is also no surprise that city services are going down. The Board of Education does not have enough money to fill all the present vacancies in the school system. In other words, there will be fewer teachers for our children next fall.

Everyone complains about high taxes and the deterioration of the public schools. In fact, many parents, if they could afford it, would continue to pay the high taxes and send their children to private schools. It seems like an unsolvable dilemma–taxes continue to go up yet there is not enough money to support the public school system.

It will continue to be unsolvable until we break down the distinction between "public" and "private". Everybody works for a living. Yet some work for the government (public) while others for corporations (private). Their work produces the things we all need and use–food, clothing, houses, transportation, education, health care—

Who is to say what is public and what is private. Everything is public.

The goods and services we produce (whether in the "public" or "private" sectors) must be used in a sensible way. If schools and education are more important than new detergents or deodorants, then we should invest our wealth in education.

Such a transformation of society will not happen overnight. We cannot be expected to bear the burdens of high taxes and lousy public services until then. We must find ways to get an ever increasing share of the wealth from the "private" sector to the public sector.

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman. Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Joseph Fusco Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Ed Breuler Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

The Serpent—Benefit For Modern Times

On Friday evening, June 16, the Wooster Square Revival Troop will give a special performance of *The Serpent* as a benefit for **Modern Times**. Tickets are available for $5 and $3 at the **Modern Times** office, 441 Chapel Street, or call 562- 2510 for reservations. Show time is 8:30 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Olive and Chapel Streets.

Photos by Andrew Popper.

a review

by Harris Stone

"The Serpent" by Jean Claude van Italie is less important as a play than the production of it by the Wooster Square Revival. The text, taken mainly from the Book of Genesis, provides structure and framework for a series of fixed improvisations by the cast.

Director Pat Grove has gathered together a varied group of people with little or not acting experience and molded them into an excellent amateur company. The obvious sincerity of the performers, their great energy, and convincing ensemble playing produce theatrical moments which would be hard for a professional company to match.

In the performance I saw, the scene between Cain and Abel was particularly powerful. On another evening, another scene might stand out. This is the excitement and limitation of such a group as Wooster Square Revival.

Anyone looking for a very enjoyable evening in the theater should see this production.

Write On

On Food Co-ops

Editor's note: In New Haven there is a Food Coop serving four areas of the city (see January 15 **Modern Times***) which offers fresh fruit, produce, meat, and grains at wholesale prices. For information call Jeff Kilbreth, 624-2321).*

To the Editor:

There are several areas in which each of us can work to improve our life situation right here and now. We hear complaints about food prices, about major consumer corporations gouging ever-increasing profits, but nothing is done about it. Everyday somebody's bitching about the absurdity of going to jail for getting high, and instead of confronting the issue, there is a tendancy to go into hiding. These are two areas with which we can do a great deal about, and now.

The solution for higher food prices in an urban area is starting a "Food Conspiracy." Food Co-ops are easily found in the far west and southwest and can save from 10% to 25% on all food items, and as much as 70% on organic and health food items. One way of starting one is to get a dozen or so families to gether at a central meeting place to contact regional food distributors, and outlets.

Using Local Farms

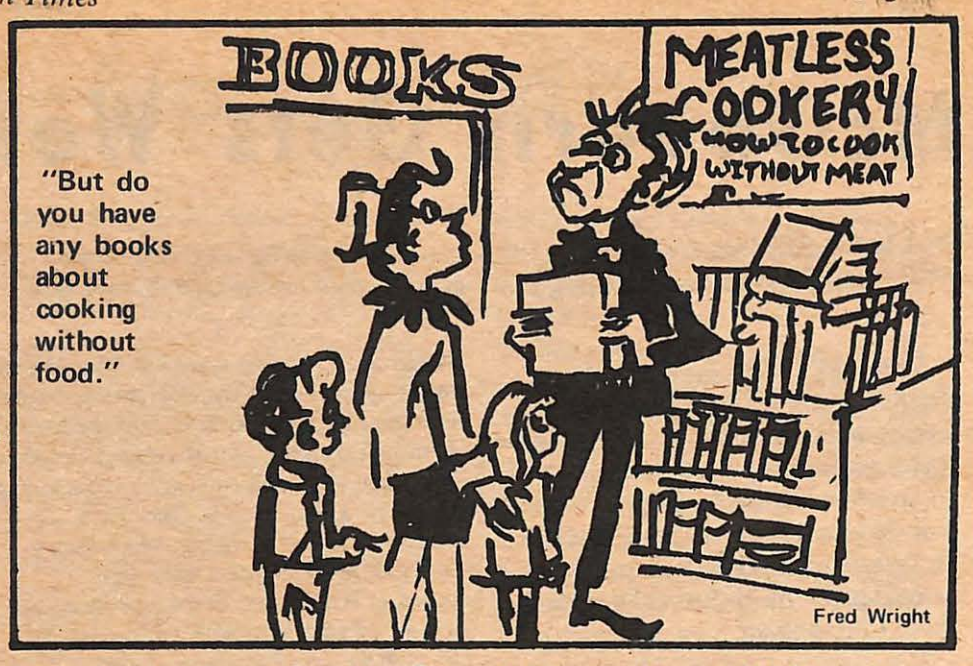
During the growing months, local farms can be an excellent source of fresh, inexpensive produce. By getting active in a co-op you will learn just how free the free-enterprise system is. There is a $2,000 fee national distributors charge major food chains, and will demand the same from co-ops, which a co-op can't afford because it is non-profit. This $2,000 is to protect big business, but for right now forget it.

Each week there will be a food list which should be returned to the co-op center by Wednesday afternoon, so that orders can be placed and delivered for a Saturday morning pick-up. To start a co-op it is suggested that cost plus 5% be levied. This 5% to be used for building materials, purchasing of freezers, etc. Usually a co-op takes about a year to take shape; this varies according to how willingly the people give their time, energy, and ideas. Co-ops are what the name implies. Cooperatives. And nothing but nothing can get done without it.

Savings are High

By starting a Food Conspiracy, two things happen. The first noticible change is that all families involved are saving 10%-35% on their food bill. The word spreads; more families buy in, making it easier to order larger quantities which in turn saves more money, which induces more families to join, etc.... The second thing which gets accomplished is the application of economic pressure on food retailers, who are singularly responsible for the outrageous increase in food prices over the past few years. The single change food co-ops can exert is the lowering of prices by A & P, Shop-rite, Food Fair, Peg's and the rest.

Sincerely
Franz Douskey



Story Appreciated

To the Editors:

I am greatful to you for putting the Barbieri, Guida, Sirabella, Parker, etc. news conference on your front page. I had heard that there might be such a news conference and listened to the radio on Saturday to hear about it. WELI carried the news of a fatal crash over and over again. When I called WELI to find out what had happened, an irate WELI employee said that the press conference was not as important or newsworthy as the crash. Why is a bloody crash in Tennessee more important than the unity of New Haven's recognized leadership for peace.

The Register did not carry a photo of the press conference on their front page. Their story was easy to miss. **The Register** did carry a photo of the Tennessee crash.

This is the first time the established leadership of New Haven has come out against Nixon's war policies. Their joint statement is an historic event. I am greatful that there is one place in New Haven where peace efforts are not swept under the rug or into the back pages and late newscast.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Louise Cerino

Introduction to Socialism

The Economy Of Waste

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions like these from our readers, **Modern Times** *decided to publish a series of articles from Leo Huberman's famous pamphlet,* **The ABC of Socialism.** The following is the ninth in the series.

An Inefficient, Wasteful System

The increase in man's power to produce should have resulted in the abolition of want and poverty. It has not had that result--even in the United States, the strongest, richest, and most productive capitalist country in the world.

In the United States, as in every other capitalist country, there is starvation in the midst of plenty, scarcity in the midst of abundance, destitution in the midst of riches.

There is something wrong. The capitalist system is inefficient and wasteful, irrational and unjust.

It is inefficient and wasteful because even in those years when it is functioning at its best, one-fifth of its productive mechanism is not in use.

It is inefficient and wasteful because periodically it breaks down--and then, not one-fifth but one-half of its productive capacity is idle.

It is inefficient and wasteful because it does not always provide useful work for *all those who want to work.*

It is inefficient and wasteful in the employment of a host of advertisers, salesmen, agents, canvassers, and the like, not in the sane production and distribution of goods, but in the insane competition for customers to buy the same commodity from Company A instead of from Company B, or Companies C, D, E, or F.

It is inefficient and wasteful because much of its production of the most extravagant luxuries at the same time that enough of the necessities of life for all is not produced.

It is inefficient and wasteful because, in its concern for increased price and profitability instead of for human needs, it sanctions the deliberate destruction of crops and goods.

Finally, it is inefficient and wasteful because periodically it leads to war--the merciless diabolical destroyer of all that is good in life, as well as of life itself.

This inefficiency and waste is not merely an abuse which can be corrected. It is part and parcel of the capitalist system. It must continue as long as the system lasts.

Contradictions

During the depression of the 1930's in the United States there were years in which as many as one-fourth of all employable *workers who were willing and wanted to* work could not find jobs. They starved, or went on home relief, or found make-work jobs with public works agencies. Men, women, and children in every city on bread lines.

And at the same time, other more favored men and women were living in comfort and luxury. They could live in shameless idleness because the capitalist system was so designed as to enable them to receive an income from the ownership of shares in industries of which they may have never even heard. The poverty of the many was all the more humiliating because of the riches of the few who were receiving dividends without work. It's not so different now.

Confronted with the paradox of poverty in plenty, the capitalist system devises a plan for tackling the problem.

The plan is to abolish the plenty.

Kerosene is poured on potatoes to make them unfit for human consumption, milk is poured into rivers, fruit is left to rot on the ground. In the U.S. today, farmers are paid **not** to grow crops on their land.

This seeming insanity is not as crazy as it appears--not in the capitalist system. In an economy which is concerned not with *feeding people* the potatoes, coffee, milk, and fruit which they need, but only with getting as high prices and profits as possible, restricting the supply is, at times, the way to achieve your end. But that doesn't make the practice right, it only proves the point--that the capitalist system is by its very nature, inefficient and wasteful.

The Greatest Waste of Capitalism is War

The all-out production of goods which is not possible in capitalist economy in peacetime is achieved in wartime. Then, and then only, does capitalism solve the problem of full employment of men, materials, machinery, and money.

To what end? Sheer destruction.

No one can count the agonies of war. But we do know how much money war costs. The figure makes crystal clear that the greatest waste of capitalism is war.

The first World War cost 200 billion dollars. World War II cost over five times as much. Vietnam has already cost even more.

Nowhere is the waste of the capitalist system better illustrated than in war.

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McGovern Gets West Haven Support

by Charlie Scheiner
McGovern for President Campaign

Although the Democratic Presidential campaign in Connecticut is largely being decided by party leaders there are primary contests in about 15 towns on June 1. These primaries will choose delegates to the State Convention which will in turn choose delegates to the National Democratic Party Convention.

In most of these, there is a clear-cut battle between McGovern delegates and a slate of "organization" Democrats who are not pledged to any Presidential candidate. Since the McGovern people chose their battlegrounds, they are favored to win most of these primaries. Because of the inroads McGovern has made with some of Connecticuts "regular" politicians (such as U.S. Senator Abraham Ribicoff and New Haven Democratic Town Chairman Arthur T. Barbieri), as well as his primary successes, the major portion of Connecticut's 51 National Delegates will go to the July 10 Convention in Miami supporting Senator George McGovern.

In the New Haven area, an interesting battle is shaping up in West Haven. The Democratic Town Committee, led by Mayor William Heffernan and First District Chairman Harold "Sonny" Allen, nominated a fusion slate of delegates as an attempt to mollify all factions of the local party.

This success was short-lived, however, as several of the people on the slate immediately resigned to form their own *slate, which would contest the Allen slate in the primary. These* people are primarily allied with State Central Committeeman William Roper, and supported Edward Marcus in the 1970 U.S. Senatorial primary and Robert Johnson in a challenge to Heffernan last fall.

Although the Roper slate appeared doomed to a repeat of the 61-39 Heffernan victory of 1971, its challenge opened up an opportunity for the McGovern forces. It appears that the South Dakota Senator's liberal backers could squeeze through and capture West Haven's twenty delegates to the State Convention.

Good Signs for McGovern

And they're trying. In two days, the McGovern people put together a slate and collected 500 signatures, turning their petitions in ahead of Roper to capture Row B on the ballot. Since then, the McGrath (McGovern) Slate has been canvassing every Democrat in West Haven, as well as registering many new voters, in preparation for the June first primary.

White working-class areas like West Haven are the type of town that McGovern would be expected to do poorly in, but the kind of surprising strength he showed in South Milwaukee and other such areas is beginning to surface in West Haven. The city's population is also changing. More than a thousand new apartment units have opened in West Haven in the past year, and they are mostly filled with young couples. The political pros have ignored this fact, and they may wake up one day to find that their base has been cut out from under them.

Canvass results show significant McGovern strength among West Haven Democrats, and there is a strong sense of frustration with the continuing local political infighting.

McGovern workers are busy canvassing West Haven Democrats in an attempt to capture that town's 20 delegates in preparation for the June 1st primary. (MT Photo by Ray Milici)

Defender Can't Protect Poor

by Michael Golden, Jr.
Law Student

I am a third year student at Yale Law School. I have worked for the New Haven Public Defender since my first year in law school. This year I worked in the Sixth Circuit Court.

The United States Supreme Court has said that everyone charged with a non-petty crime is entitled to a lawyer. If an accused is unable to afford a lawyer, the state must provide one. Different states *have different systems of providing lawyers.* Connecticut uses the public defender system. This means that the state pays lawyers fixed salaries to represent all defendants who are indigent and do not have their own lawyers. When a person is first presented in court, he or she applies for the public defender. If the judge finds that the accused is indigent he appoints the public defender.

The clients of the Connecticut Public Defenders generally do not have much regard for the quality of the defense they receive. When asked if they have a lawyer, defendants often answer, "No, I have a public defender." One woman called her public defender, "the public defector."

Enormous Caseload

It is difficult to defend the quality of justice that is administered in the Circuit Court in New Haven. It is possible, however, to at least partially defend some of the public defenders. They work under such dreadful conditions that it is impossible for them to do a good job. Nevertheless, the above quotations are accurate perceptions of the quality of public defender defense services.

The New Jersey Public Defender spends approximately ten times as much money on each case as the Connecticut Public Defender. There are two full-time public defenders in the sixth circuit court. They cannot possibly provide adequate defense services because their case load is too large and their budget too small. The public defender must handle all of the cases in *which he is appointed -- about 1,000 clients* per lawyer per year. This is approximately three times the number of cases the American Bar Association says a defense attorney can handle properly.

The result of this enormous case load is that public defenders do not do the things that good defense lawyers do. They do not file enough motions, hold enough hearings, or try cases. Many of their clients are in jail even though they have not been found guilty. Since they are poor, they are unable to pay the money that is necessary to get out on bond. This creates a great deal of pressure on the lawyer to "plea bargain" because copping a plea often results in release.

Lawyer as Judge

This means that the public defender is constantly bargaining with the prosecutor. It also means that the public defender is forced to make judgments about the relative worth of different people. The essence of the bargaining process is that both sides give a little and take a little. When the public defender gives in in one case, the prosecutor frequently reciprocates. This is not a proper role for a lawyer. A lawyer should represent his or her clients, not judge them.

Since the case load is so great, the plea bargaining process is the only way the courts can attempt to keep current.

There are ways to start to deal with this problem. One is to allocate more money for courts and everything that goes with them. Another is to eliminate so called "victimless" crime: those crimes in which there is no victim other than the offender. If crimes relating to drugs, homosexuality, abortion, gambling and drinking were eliminated, the case load in the courts would be reduced about 60 to 80%. If this were done without reducing the budget, the quality of justice could improve. The public defenders would have no excuses. They could no longer blame their inadequacies on the system.

MUBA Blasts City Hall

Continued from page 3.

panies might provide jobs. They looked everyday for three months.

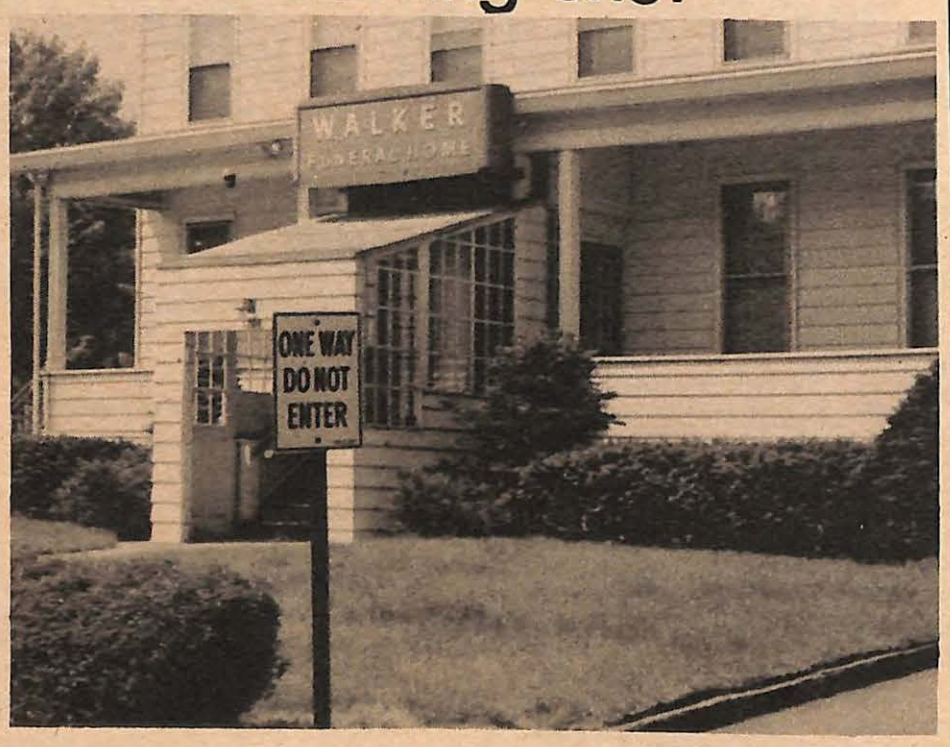
Jobs Negotiated

Finally, a group of five went to the Ironworkers Union, asking for jobs. After some discussion, they were hired and worked on and off for three months. "But now we've been unemployed for seven months," complained Maultsby. He said that there are only about 15 minority people in the local of over 1200. He said the union has just started a new training program for minority workers aged 31 and over, and is running an apprenticeship program for five people.

Sites they will be contesting include a new library at Southern Connecticut State College, and a bank in Bridgeport, being constructed under the Redevelopment program.

However, the Brothers stress that they are concerned about keeping jobs as well as getting them. "The company gives you the business and tries to get rid of you," said Henry Campbell, "But, we'll be investigating that stuff."

A 'Parting Shot'



What hidden warning does this sign contain? What is the New Haven Parking Authority trying to tell us? Next time you are downtown on Chapel Street, watch for this scene. (M-T photo by Rick Wolff).

Davis Case Testimony-No Link With Plot

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The lack of evidence against Angela Davis is glaring as prosecution and defense lawyers bring their cases to a close. All the inferences to a conspiracy that had been attempted by prosecution lawyer Albert Harris were completely contradicted by defense testimony.

In fact, defense attorney Leo Branton felt the state's case was so flimsy that he moved for dismissal before presenting his own witnesses. "There is not one word of direct evidence,...there is not one word of indirect evidence to connect this defendant with any crime charged," he said, "unless the jury is to draw inferences from legal, lawful conduct...(which) more abundantly points to innocence rather than to guilt."

Prosecutor Harris has argued that the Black woman Communist conspired to provide the guns for an escape attempt at the Marin County Courthouse August 7, 1970. He says she was passionately in love with Soledad Brother George Jackson and wanted to free him. Defense witnesses discredited Harris' contentions, one by one.

No Two The Same

Even Harris' own witnesses did not back each other up. Although several said they heard calls for the freedom of the Soledad Brothers in the Marin Civic Center on August 7, no two witnesses ever testified to the same thing.

Defense witness Fleeta Drumgo, a Soledad Brother, testified that he knew nothing of a supposed planned escape attempt involving himself.

Prosecution witnesses were unable to prove Harris' claim that Angela Davis and George Jackson's brother Jonathan had spent August 5 and 6 together in or near San Quentin. Defense witnesses, on the other hand, detailed her entire schedule during those days. Testimony came from Angela Davis' roommate, from the editor of the People's World newspaper and a lawyer, concerning time they had spent with her, nowhere near San Quentin.

None of the prosecution witnesses could prove the basis of the conspiracy charge, that Davis knowingly gave guns to Jonathan Jackson for use in the shootout.

According to testimony, Davis was no longer living in the old apartment where her guns had been kept and where her roommate still lived. Jonathan Jackson had been alone in the house on August 1 and the house had then been empty until August 3.

Defense on the Offense

On August 8, after the news of the shootout, Angela Davis seemed shocked to realize her guns were gone. Defense witness Valerie Mitchell, her roommate, described the scene when Angela Davis and a friend came home and looked in the closet for the weapons.

"When they looked and saw the guns were gone," she testified, the friend said, "Oh, shit!" and Angela said, "Oh, no!"

Another defense witness was with Angela Davis when she first heard of the shootout. Mrs. Ellen Broms, a social worker and friend of Davis, testified that they saw the account on the 11 o'clock news and Davis, shocked, began to cry. The next morning, when Angela Davis saw the newspaper account, she said, "My God! There's something about a shotgun in here and I just bought one a couple of days ago for the defense of the Soledad House."

The "love letters", which were to prove that the motive behind Angela Davis' alleged involvement was passionate love for Soledad Brother George Jackson, do not even hint that she ever considered winning the freedom of Jackson or any political prisoners any other way except by building the most massive people's defense movement. They are political and personal statements about the problem of Black liberation and the political prisoners' movement. Similarly, the "diary" from Angela Davis found in Jackson's cell simply showed expressions of love.

Case Drop Refused

When the prosecution rested it's case, defense attorney Leo Branton requested that charges should be dismissed and the judge direct a verdict of acquittal. He hit hard the charge of conspiracy that was slapped on the case, because there was no evidence. "Somehow prosecutors have come to think that all they have to do is show an association of people together and the commission of a crime by one of those persons, and that this adds up to a conspiracy, and, at least they should have the right to argue to the jury that this shows a conspiracy."

His reference was to the many political trials in recent years, where the conspiracy charge has been belatedly added. In these prominent cases, the trial of the Chicago 8, Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins trial and the trial of the Harrisburg 7, all were acquitted of the conspiracy charge.

Branton said that in the case of Angela Davis there is an added point: "even the prosecution's evidence shows beyond a reasonable doubt that she was involved in the pursuit of First Amendment rights," (free speech) which must not be violated.

After rebuttal witnesses, each side will make closing statements before the case goes to the jury.

Freddie Fixer Parade

On Sunday, May 21, New Haven's 10th Annual Freddie Fixer Parade was held. Pictured here is the Float sponsored by the Committee to Free Angela Davis, which was one of the many units that participated in the event. (MT photo by Ron Benson)

Youth Fest Coming Soon

by Bruce Wessel

Saturday, June 10, the High School Committee to Free Angela Davis and All Political Prisoners is sponsoring a Youth Fest on the Green. Local high school talent ranging from singing and dancing to self defense and karate techniques will be exhibited.

The Committee has held program rehearsals for the past three Wednesday nights at Winchester School. Several groups have volunteered to participate in the show including the Langley's, a local band; the Parkway Players, a Hillhouse Theater company; and a self defense school, the Dynamic University. Numerous others have also agreed to donate their services.

In addition high schoolers will read poetry and discuss Angela's trial during the Youth Fest. One of the disc jockeys from WYBC will be the Master of Ceremonies.

The tentative time for the start of the Festival is 3 p.m. on June 10. Anyone interested in participating should contact Billy Stanton, 562-2859; Bruce Wessel, 387-4604; or the Angela Davis Bookstore, 865-5535.

Hill Residents Speak Out For H.E.C.

Continued from page 1

fer has created great uncertainty. As Sherrill Moore, director of HEC puts it, "We were not, and still are not, opposed to the merger. The problem is the way it's being done and the method being used to do it."

Left Out of Decisions

The method Sherrill Moore is referring to is one which, he claims, excluded the staff of HEC from the negotiations about its future. Meanwhile, according to Roger Everson, Director of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation, decisions regarding the environmental group in which HNC was responsible for community input, were later arbitrarily changed downtown.

The directives reaching the HEC from downtown have resulted in confusion. As Sherrill Moore puts it, "We owe an obligation to the Hill community. We want to fulfill it, but we can't, with constant interference from Model Cities and Public Works."

The pay dispute centers on whether HEC workers will be paid at a skilled or unskilled rate. Model Cities wants them to receive the same rate as unskilled workers in the Public Works Department. HEC workers maintain that they are, in fact, skilled workers because they do a much wider range of jobs than unskilled Public Works employees.

HEC workers say that they don't see their job as a "make-work" project. They want to join Local 713 of AFSCME and they want to work together with Hill residents to expand their environmental program far beyond mere trash collection.

Although they agree to merge with the Public Works Department, HEC is determined to maintain its identity as a Hill community service. Sherrill Moore says: "Our program is going to stay intact -- all ou people, all our equipment." Neither Vernon Moore of Model Cities nor Public Works Director Charles Schwab were available for comment.

Community Support

Pura Velez of the Junta for Progressive Action expressed the feeling of many Hill residents when she said of the HEC, "They have been doing a wonderful job." At the public meeting on May 24, statements in support of the HEC were made on behalf of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation, the Black Coalition, the Hill Parents Association and many individual Hill residents.

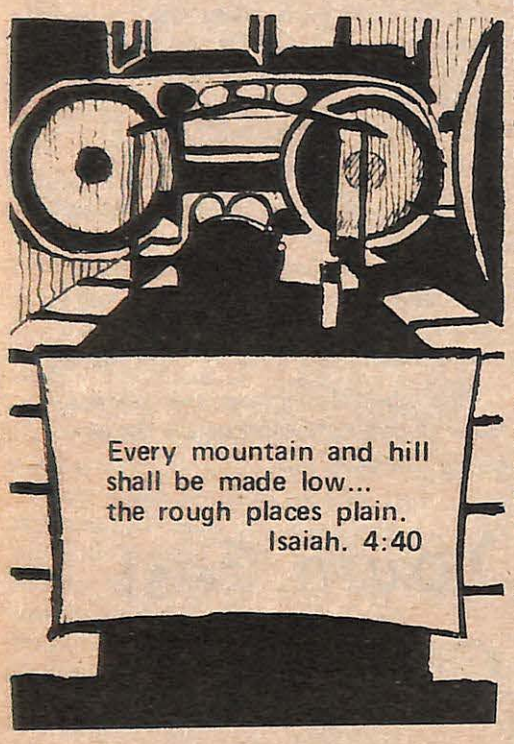
At the picket line outside City Hall demanding the survival of the HEC, Gail Coleman, Alderwoman from the 4th ward, said, "We need a group like this. Let's put it together and keep the guys working."

Sherrill Moore, Director of HEC (third from right at table), explains decision to resign at open meeting for Hill residents, Wednesday, May 24. (M-T photo by Nick Heyer).

brass tacks

JETPORT CITY: Disaster For Sale

by Sam Goodwin
Amateur Ecologist



release their whole plan at once, but a little study soon brings out the following picture.

1. Somewhere near the mid-point of the Conn.-Rhode Island border (probably right in the middle of the Pachaug State Forest) they want to level off hill-tops and fill in valleys to make a runway capable of accommodating the biggest, longest-range jets.

2. Around this three-mile-long runway and its installations indispensible to the loading, unloading, re-fueling, and maintenance of inter-continental jets, they would leave a belt of forest a mile wide (they say).

3. Outside of this belt of forest they want to build a city with homes, motels, shopping malls, automobile rows, restaurants, theaters, colliseums, and all the other things that civilized people are supposed to need--especially people on the move.

The belt of forest would protect the outer Jetport City from the noise and dirt of the inner Jetport.

They don't say much about what effect the repeated exposure to noise equivalent to twenty motorcycles passing within twenty feet and the expulsion into the air above of several tons of partially-burned fuel oil daily will have on trees, birds, animals, or fish.

Nor do they say how traffic will move between the dirty, inner Jetport and the clean, outer Jetport City--over straight roads or winding roads, in shuttling helicopters, through underground tubes, or by all of them at once, or how much of a belt of forest can be expected to survive that.

4. The whole monstrous mess built on federal and state taxes--would be the center of a web of highways and rail or tube transport converging from New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, Worcester, Boston, Cape Cod, Providence, **and a bridge across Long Island Sound near New London.**

5. Jetport City would be one of the big jumping-off places for Europe and the World. "Instead of just letting our transportation complex grow haphazardly around an already crowded city, let's plan it from scratch and do it right," said Stanley.

Plan for People

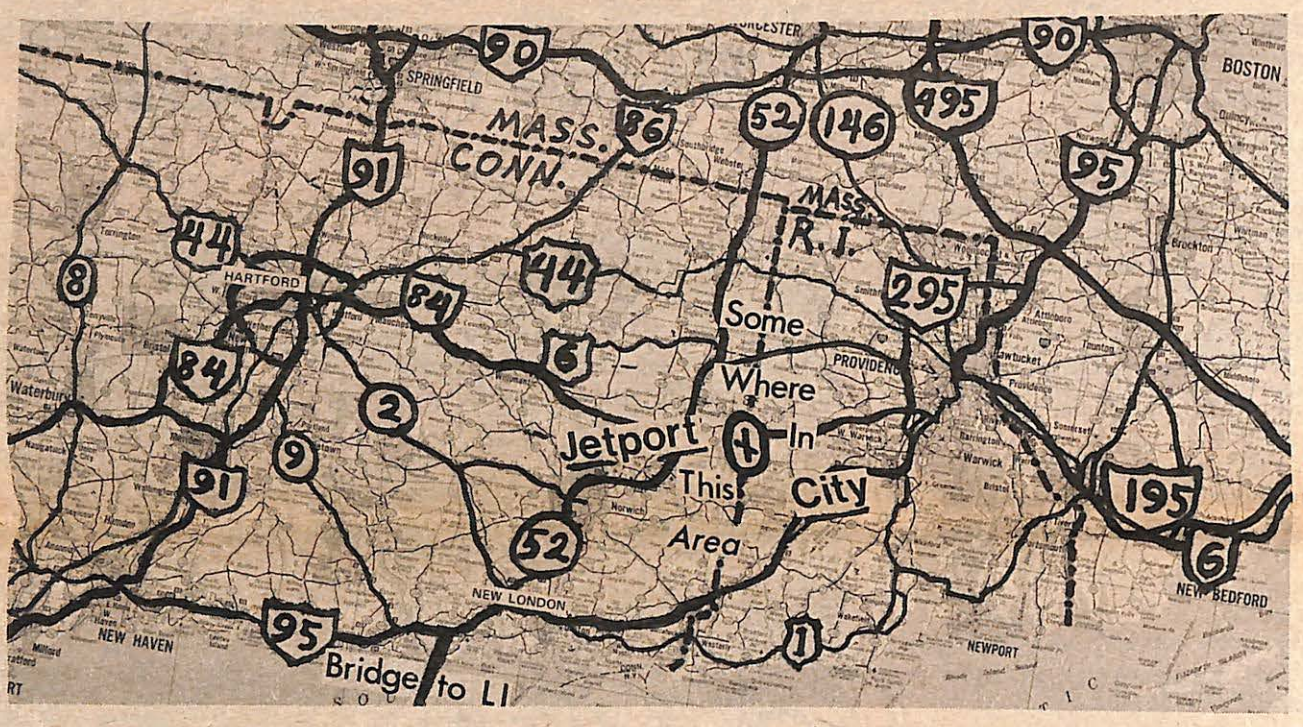
So what's wrong with that?

First. Connecticut is a great place to live with three million people in it.

It can still be a great place for the six, seven, or eight million who will be crowding in here by the year 2000, **if we start now to plan and build for people and other living things instead of just grabbing at ready-made schemes to make profits and jobs by making it an easy place to get out of.**

Second. The jets that require a three-mile runway are wasteful of fuel, air-space, and the traveller's time for hops of less

See JETPORT p. 11



The plan to build a jetport with a three-mile runway and accompanying motels, shopping malls , and parking lots on the Connecticut - Rhode Island border would remove a large section of woodland and open space. Map indicates approximate location of "Jetport City."

I have a lot of respect for the people who run our unions. Most of them have and deserve the confidence of their members in such bread-and-butter matters as when to strike and when to go back to work.

But even though their unions--and therefore their positions--exist because of the predatory nature of the Business Community, *union leaders sometimes lose their healthy* skepticism toward the Business Community's schemes to make money at the expense of the rest of us.

Here is my case in point.

A few years ago a Norwich stock-broker and State Senator William B. Stanley, took to the public speaking circuit to promote the Plot to Bury Eastern Connecticut and part of Rhode Island under Jetport City.

Fortunately, a few citizens of that area woke up and got into action. Wherever Senator Stanley took his slick sales pitch, someone usually got there to tell the other side of the story.

Some of the people and their organizations that took part in this were: Raymond Ives of Chaplain--Connecticut Taxpayers Association and Connecticut Committees of Correspondence (CCofC), Bonnie Fitch of Sterling and Rachel Bartlett of Plainfield--Connecticut Organization for Planned Progress (COPP) and CCofC, and Peter Tripp of Stonington--CCofC.

Apparently as a result of this vigorous and sustained counter-attack, Mr. Stanley's bid for a seat in Congress died in the primaries (in favor of Jack Pickett, who lost the November election to Bob Steel).

Labor backs plot

Stanley's political career and the Plot to Bury Eastern Connecticut went into temporary retirement, but the Plot surfaced again in this year's session of the General Assembly. **No decisive action was taken, but the Plot's loudest backers were labor leaders!**

The Connecticut Labor Council had gotten the slick sales pitch without the rebuttal. They saw it as a source of jobs and had never had time to look into its disasterous long-range effects--economic, social, and ecological.

The salesmen for Jetport City don't

Corporations Must Be Challenged

by Mike F. Holodnak

If all workers, consumers, the unemployed, and retirees, in fact if all the American people are to survive the complete take-over of this country by the greedy and very powerful conglomerates, then it is imperative, in my opinion, for organized labor to begin to seriously challenge so-called company prerogatives, which are often referred to as management's rights.

The union's top International Councils must stop supporting the Vietnam War and all the other war-like foreign policies that make it safe for multi-national corporations to move their facilities overseas for cheap labor.

Right now company prerogatives allow corporations to pull up stakes any time they please with almost total disregard for the devastating effects this has on the U.S. economy or the employees who may have given a lifetime of loyal service to that company.

Job Safety Committees

Unions must insist on contracts that will give on-the-job union controlled safety committees the right to immediately shut down an unsafe job.

Right now company prerogatives allow unsafe jobs to operate with impunity, killing over 14,000 and disabling over two million workers every single year.

Unions must end all discrimination against women, blacks and Spanish-speaking workers.

Right now company prerogatives allow various job classifications to be juggled and manipulated out of the reach of these minorities.

Unions must forge a coalition with all community groups that are interested in human survival.

The Rights of the Giants

Right now company prerogatives give every giant corporation the right to say, "OK, everybody, get off the world, I own it. I have a right to pollute the rivers and lakes with poisonous wastes because my right to profits transcends everything, even human life itself."

In other words all these company prerogatives give the industrialists the right to move much of the labor-built production facilities overseas for cheap labor, fill their Swiss bank accounts to overflow with blood money, push speed-ups, throw millions of American workers out on the streets, practice racism, and destroy our ecology and economy. At the same time they feverishly grind out, on their propaganda organs, large volumes of patriotism to keep the military budget high in order to make the world safe for swindling.

All these company prerogatives are a bone stuck, not only in Labor's, but in everybody's throat. Every American is victimized either as a worker, consumer, or both. The young and the old are having their lungs corroded, their systems poisoned. And lead poisoning is no longer limited to just the little ghetto children. Today the air is so saturated with lead from leaded gasolines that every man, woman and child in this country is subjected to some degree of brain damage.

Obviously the interests of Labor and the interests of the community are the same. But, with only 22% of the labor force organized and the community almost not at all, how can all these very dangerous company prerogatives be successfully challenged?

Unless Labor can expand its horizons and embrace the principles that the American people - not a handful of corporation flunkies in Washington - are the government, then every union job and human life is in jeopardy.

It is only logical that the survival of all can very well depend on the unions helping to organize the unorganized, and the unemployed, and uniting with community and consumer groups, and ending all forms of discrimination in every area of human life.

EAST SIDE ROUND-UP

Frank R. Annunziato

People of the eastern side of New Haven have always thought that our part of town is the forgotten section of this city. People feel that the other parts of town get all the services, all the publicity, and all the glamour. I suppose that every neighborhood thinks that about every other neighborhood and that if people took a long look at the whole city, they would find out that everybody is getting a raw deal. It's hard, though, to figure out what's going on in the neighborhoods because both the **Journal-Courier** and the **Register** spend most of their time either on hot shot international events, classified ads or what politicians are currently messing up. A little paper like **Modern Times** can't provide everything that those big papers neglect, but we can try to do something. That's where this new column comes in.

This column is dedicated to the little people of the eastern side of New Haven. I want to write about their history, their organizations and their community leaders' I want to talk about their battles, their times of victory and their times of defeat. Why just the eastern side of the city? Because that is where I was born, grew up, and to quote one of my friends, Andy Caladrelli, "I'll probably die there too!" I don't know any other part of town like this part and I wouldn't do a decent job if I tried to cover everything.

One Third of New Haven

By the eastern side of the city, I'm talking about the neighborhoods of Wooster Square, Fair Haven and Fair Fair Haven Heights, the Annex and Morris Cove. This is an area of about forty thousand people; almost one third of New Haven lives there. It is an area of black, white and Puerto Rican people. There are many ethnic groups represented here: Irish, Polish, Greek and the largest of them the Italo-Americans. People here work in factories, schools and offices. Very few of them are rich, some think they're comfortable. Others are struggling to survive and others are dirt poor.

Politically, most of the people here would call themselves "independent" and in terms of political parties, there are two Democrats for every Republican. As a rule, the area votes heavily Democratic and all the elected officials from this part of town are in that party. The Democratic Party chairman, Arthur Barbieri, grew up in Fair Haven, currently lives in Morris Cove, and from his track record, he's got a lot of friends out here. Every once in a while, some hard working and popular Republican may win an election or come awfully close but that's about as rare as a day when the Mill River doesn't smell.

Pollution Capital

The Mill River brings up another important fact about our part of town. We are the pollution capital of New Haven. The two rivers that float around us are almost hopelessly destroyed and the air has been known to be unbreathable. We give special thanks to the Federal Paper Board Co., Simkins Industry and the United Illuminating Co. for working so hard over the years to make us the pollution capital. Can't forget to thank the city of New Haven for dumping its crap into the rivers and putting highways through our neighborhoods.

That's about the briefest general description of our community I can give you. In future columns, I'll talk about specific people, places and events. If anybody has any ideas about this column or something to submit, please write me c/o **Modern Times**.

NEXT TIME: the aldermen and other bits of trivia

Jetport Ignores Ecology

Continued from page 10

than 500 miles. They are flying now only because we, the taxpayers, are subsidizing them.

Short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) craft exist that can carry up to 160 passengers faster, safer, cheaper, with less noise and pollution using runways of less than 2000 feet!

There are already too many jetports *in the Northeast!*

Third. Take a ride over the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge and the Van Wyck Expressway, then take some other route back through the slums of Brooklyn and the Bronx. The unjust try to imagine that mess of slums criss-crossed with a maze of highways and connecting-ramps spreading across Connecticut and Long Island until it meets and merges with another mess speading out from Boston.

Ecology Makes Jobs

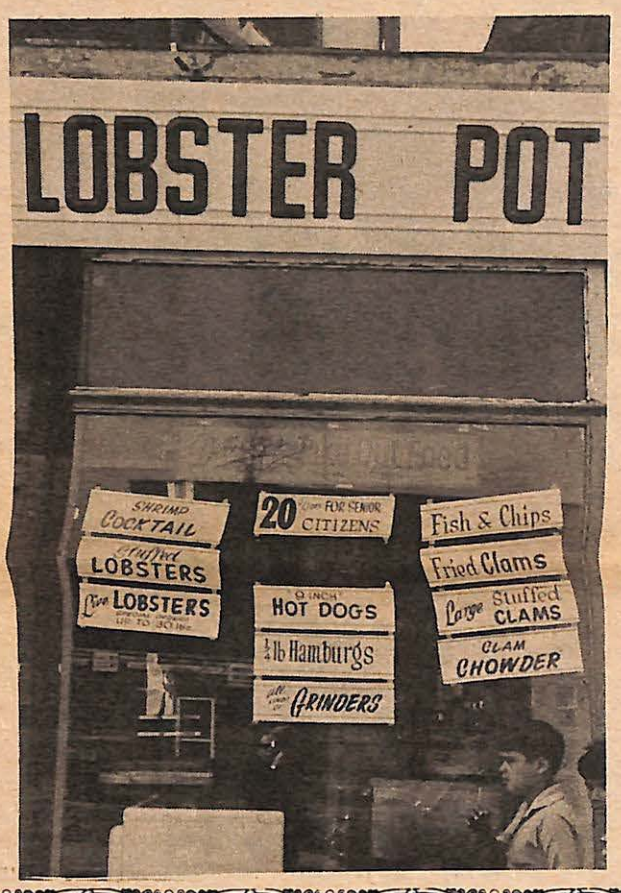
There are better ways to make jobs.

When we as taxpayers and consumers start demanding that our money be spent to maintain and restore clean air, clean water, decent housing, efficient transportation, and green, living land -- instead of to destroy them -- there will be more jobs than people to fill them for at least the *next 20 years.*

What can we do about it right now?

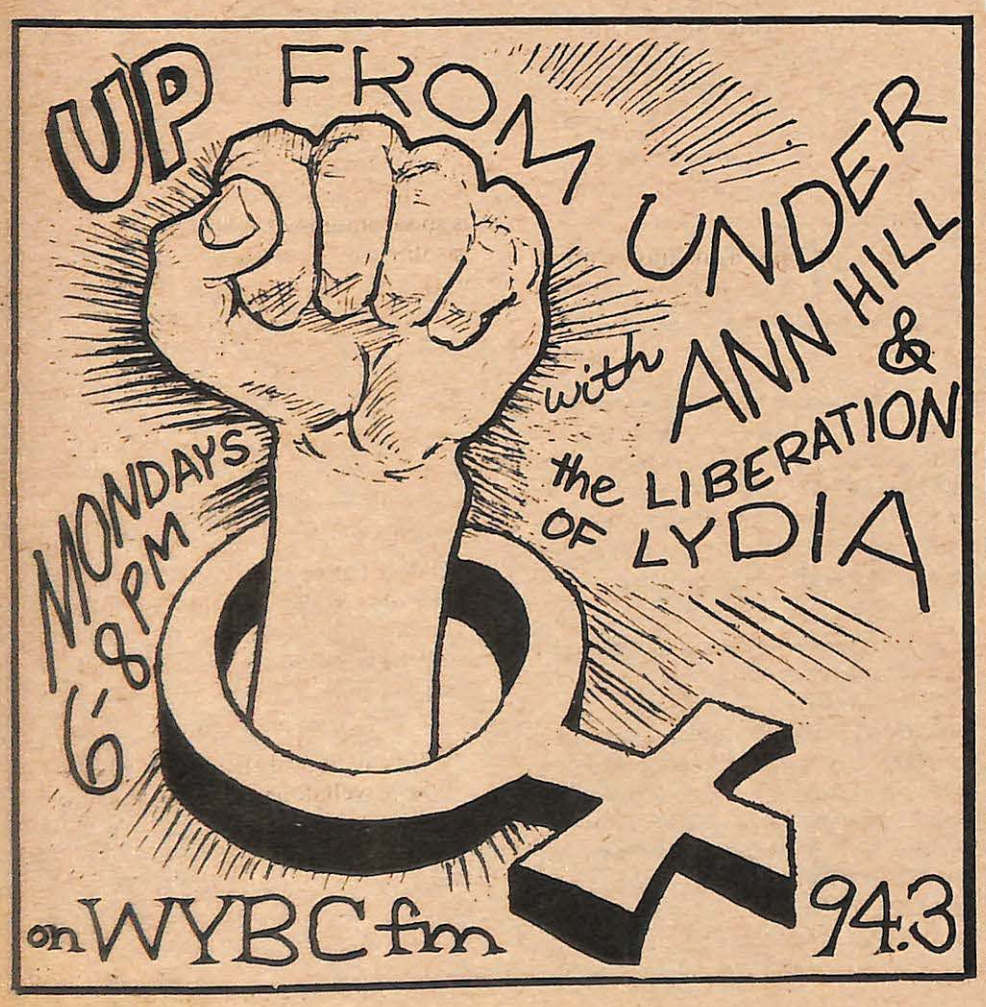
The Connecticut Convservation Association, with the cooperation of other organizations, is sponsoring the publication of a diligently researched "White Paper" to make the facts behind highway and airport development in Connecticut accessable to many more citizens. To prepare, publish, and distribute at least 100,000 copies will require between $5000 and $7000 in contributions.

I suggest you send your tax-deductible contribution, for whatever amount you can afford, to Raymond W. Ives, Treasurer, Conn. Committees of Correspondence, Star Route, Cahplin, Conn. 06235 -- stating on the check or in an accompanying note that it is for the White Paper.



The Lobster Pot which opened in Fair Haven at the beginning of May features an unusual 20% discount to senior citizens. Located on East Chapel St. near the corner of Ferry, the store is small and "homey" with a few popular selections listed in the window.. The statement made to our photographer about the discount for senior citizens..."everybody should cooperate with the senior citizens because the government is not giving them sufficient money to live."

(MT photo by Peter Irvine)



PERISCOPE

On The Environment

by Tony Dominski

LOBBY FOR EDGEWOOD-WEST RIVER PARKS

Now is the time to call your alderman or alderwomen and express concern about the Yale Rowing Course. The contract will be reviewed in early June. At issue is the commercialization of a public park and downgrading it with more parking lots and automobile traffic. It is a frightening precedent to lease public park land to a private corporation.

While telephoning about the rowing course it would be a good idea to comment on how nice Edgewood Park is without cars. (I enjoy bike riding in it now and can even take my nephew for a walk without worrying about him being hit by a car!!)

NEW PARK GUIDE

The East Rock Heighborhood Association has just put out a splendid new guide to East Rock Park. It includes essays on the history, geology, vegetation, birds, mammals and park programs of East Rock. There is also an informative essay of how the East Rock Connector, which was to go through the park, was stopped by neighborhood action.

For information on how to obtain the guide, call Lisa Orville at 562-0973.

GETTING RID OF GYPSY MOTHS WITHOUT PESTICIDES

Caterpillars crawl up and down tree trunks to hide from predators and seek shade. You can stop them with two methods:

1) **BURLAP BANDING** -Tie a strip of burlap around the tree at head height. Let part of the burlap overlap into a pocket running completely around the tree. Check the pocket several times a day and scrape caterpillars from pocket and destroy them. Be sure to check for caterpillars hidden in the burlap.

2) **BANDING WITH STICKY MATERIALS** Wrap Saran Wrap, a masking tape or wrapping paper around tree trunk. Apply vaseline, axle grease or Tanglefoot (a commercial product available from nurseries) to the wrapping. Periodically scrape off the trapped caterpillars and destroy them. Be sure to rough up the surface to maintain stickiness.

On The Job

Caseworker Speaks Out

Jim Gaito (M-T photo by Rick Wolff.)

Interview with Jim Gaito, Caseworker, Connecticut State Welfare Department

"It's really a draining job. It used to be, when you took responsibility for a family and got to know them, that this job gave real satisfaction. Especially when you could see some movement in the family you had a working relationship with."

The man talking is Jim Gaito, 26, a caseworker for the State Welfare Department. He looked troubled and yet determined, too. He said he had been doing a lot of thinking. I asked him why he only talked about getting some satisfaction from his job in the past, not in the present.

"When I started work here in 1968, I had 63 families assigned to me. By last December I had 115." Smiling, he pointed out that while his pay had risen only slightly his workload had nearly doubled

"Look," he said, "don't misunderstand me. It wasn't just the heavier caseloads It was this 'Separation' thing. And most of all it was the whole social problem which we caseworkers are somehow expected to solve." He was talking fast and energetically now, but seeing my confused look, he gave me some of the background information to understand what he was saying.

Child Caseload

State Welfare Department caseworkers work with four kinds of people. The biggest group is children who are dependent on their families - but the families can't really provide for them. These are known as AFDC families (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). The three other groups are the elderly, the disabled and a group referred to as the medically needy.

Until last year when "Separation" occurred, each caseworker handled both financial and service matters for each family assigned to that caseworker. The financial operation involved a check on the family's economic situation every 6 months to determine what money payments it was eligible for. The service side of the caseworker's job involved helping family members to get assistance from all the agencies and services available to the public, helping the family to solve problems they encounter with the school system, the court, etc. It often meant helping a family solve an emergency difficulty like an eviction or a fire or an illness.

"Separation means that I no longer do both financial and service work. Every case worker does one or the other. In my case, I am now restricted to the financial side." Gaito told how there are 6 workers in his office handling 1200 welfare families. Much of the work is done on the telephone. Personal contact and involvement with the family is minimized.

Telephone Run-Around

"Anyone who calls is like a complete stranger. A caller may get one of us one day and a different caseworker the next time they call. So anyone calling has to go over their story many times. It is incredibly furstrating for the caseworker *as well as for the family in need."*

Gaito explained that the new system produces resentment on top of the frustration. "Since you don't have a personal relationship with the caller, it doesn't take long before you get to resent another caller with another problem for you."

Gaito said that a few caseworkers didn't mind Separation because they didn't like to work with families. "But you hear many frustrated complaints." A growing number of caseworkers have been reduced, he said, to an attitude of "I'm just doing a job."

Trouble Foreseen

Gaito hinted that this situation will mean big problems in the near future. "There's no special enthusiasm now. A lot of people want to get out as soon as the employment situation brightens up. I wouldn't be surprised if mass defections occur then."

Along with about 200 other welfare workers, Gaito is building a union, Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees (CUWE). They have affiliated with the Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO (which has 400,000 members nationally) to become its Local 629.

"Welfare employees join our union because they want to turn this deteriorating situation around." Better pay and better working conditions, said Gaito, have a special meaning in his union. "CUWE strongly disagrees with Connecti*cut's Welfare Commissioner White. We don't think* the deteriorating welfare situation is caused by us or by our not doing our work. Rather, our job conditions have worsened, the needs of people for welfare have grown and Commissioner White's only solution is to reduce the level of assistance granted."

"We oppose that because it would still further worsen our job conditions, the task we have to do."

"As for me, I've kept my interest in part becuase of the union. I'd feel helpless without it. I probably would have left without it."

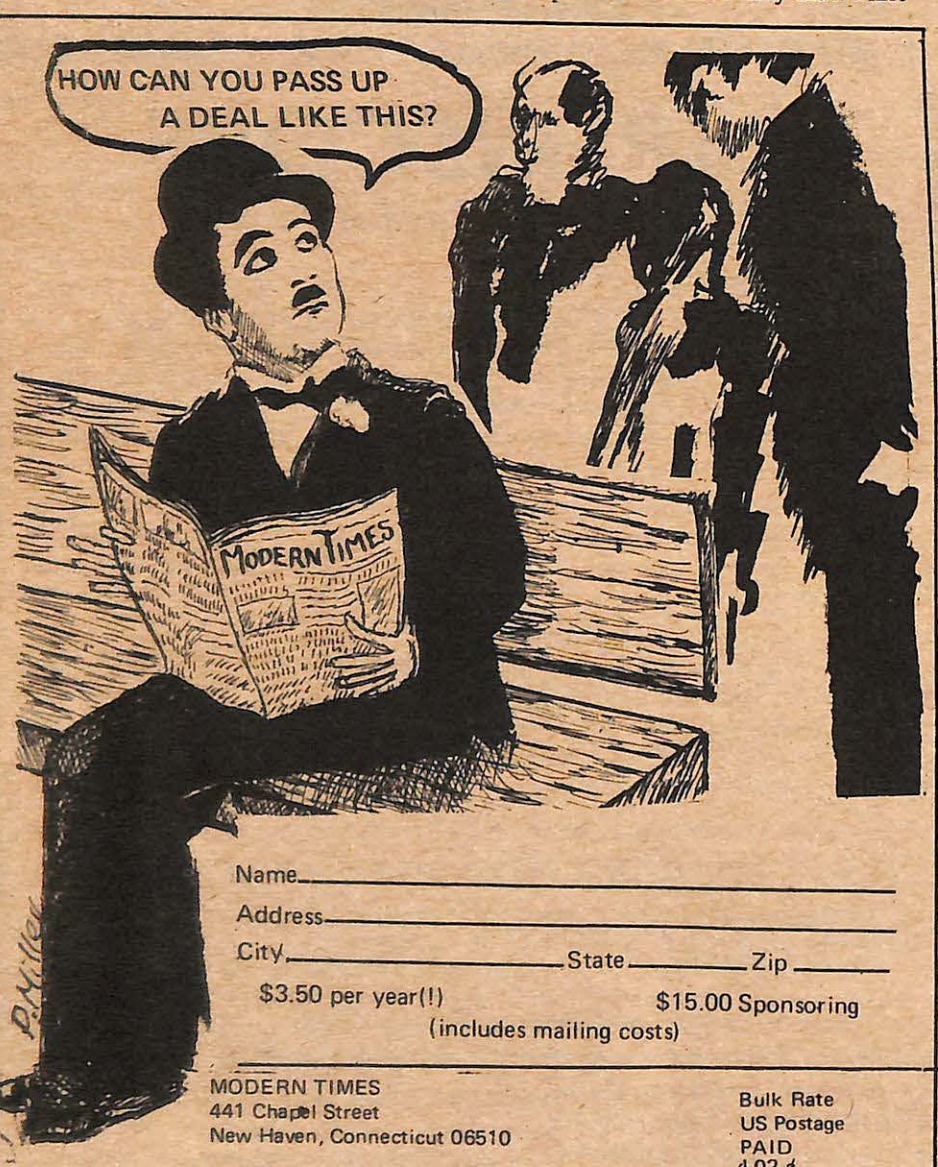
Union Provides Hope

Gaito feels so strongly about his union, he explained, because it offers some hope of changing a bad situation. He said his experience taught him that the whole issue of welfare cheating was blown way out of proportion. "There's not much."

"Anyway, what's happening is that working class and lower-middle class people are being unfairly taxed. The taxes then go to subsidize the rich, and a little is given the poor. Then politicians promise tax reflief by taking the little from the poor."

The CUWE is trying to build its strength to fight to change the welfare system from within by demanding changed working conditions that really help needy *families, including helping them out of* their need for welfare help.

"But I also believe in socially-concerned unionism. Unions can and should act to change this society to give everyone a decent job and home. That is as important for welfare workers and the welfare system as the things we do on our job every day."



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Rochdale cooperative house, now has openings for male and female members. Call 776-8227, or come anytime to 361 Elm St.

Single and double room available now in cooperative house. Call any time--777-2001.

The Gesell Institute Nursery School is offering a summer program for little folks ages 4-6. Sessions are June 26 - July 21 and July 24 - August 18. Please call 389-0865 or 787 - 2412.

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